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# SMALLBURGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health including the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector

for the

Year 1960



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#### MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

#### 1960 - 1961.

Chairman: Councillor B. W. T. AMIES.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor W. T. P. STEELE.

Councillor J.S. Bain. H.B. Cumby. 11 C.C. Durrant. J. Durrell. J.J. Going. H.S. Hicks. Major A.C. Holden, T.D., B.A., J.P., (Chairman of the Council). 11 J.J.A. Kendall, T.D. A.E. May. A.G. Meale. J. Middleton, M.B.E. G.E. Milligen, M.A. 11 Mrs. L.A. Nickerson. The Hon. Mrs. S.C. Peel. Mrs. B. Riviere. J. Skinner. B.E. Trett. B.J. Wall. The Hon. Pamela Walpole, O.B.E., J.P., C.C. (Vice-Chairman of the Council).

#### HEALTH DEPARTMENT

#### 1960

Medical Officer of Health.

G. R. HOLTBY, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., D.I.H. Telephone: Norwich 22288.

Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector.

Norman F. Cripps, F.A.L.P.A., M.R.S.H., A.I. Hsg., Cert. S.I.B. Additional Public Health Inspectors.

A. E. Ford, Cert. R.S.I. P. F. Brooks, Cert. S.I.B.

#### SMALLBURGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Chambers
Stalham.
NORWICH.
NOR 352.

September 1961.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1960.

The Registrar-General estimated the mid-year population as 17,950 compared with 18,200 last year. There were 198 live births and 188 deaths, showing a very small movement of people out of the district.

The principal causes of death were again cardio-vascular disease and the cancers. While the former is in many cases a disease of old age, coronary thrombosis is an increasing scourge of middle aged men. Since my last report scientific publications have thrown some doubt on the importance of animal fats as being a responsible factor. There are still many experts who feel that a diet too rich in animal fat is dangerous, and in the case of people who have had an attack of coronary thrombosis or have a strong family history of the condition the avoidance of too much fat would seem a wise precaution, but there is no definite proof as yet that a shortage of "essential fatty acids" is the main factor (it had previously been suggested that such a shortage was associated with a large amount of animal fat in the diet.)

There does not appear to be any doubt about the preventive value of exercise taken regularly. Sudden violent exertion in people not used to it, is of course not recommended.

Of the deaths from the various cancers, lung cancer still give much cause for alarm. The following table showing deaths from lung cancer in England and Wales since the beginning of the

century, speaks for itself:

1901 - 228	1936 - 3,432
1906 - 341	1946 - 8,110
1916 - 413	1956 -18,186
1926 - 850	

In the early years, the diagnosis may have been missed in some cases, but there can be no doubt that there has been a real increase in incidence.

Air pollution is a possible factor in some cases, but the annual totals are still rising although air pollution is getting less. Excessive cigarette smoking is undoubtedly a responsible factor in lung cancer as in many cases of chronic bronchitis.

Deaths from drowning are terrible tragedies which occur every year. As you know, we have put up notices on the beaches warning of dangerous currents and sudden changes in the level of the shore where these are appropriate, or of the risk of swimming when the tide is going out. We have also put up life belts at various points. Unfortunately, some damage has been done to these by unthinking people. I suggest that notices should be put up with the belts saying "This may save someone's life, please do not damage it".

Many thinking people, including boat owners, are greatly concerned by the number of deaths from drowning on the Broads, and holiday makers are urged to wear life jackets which, in the case of hired boats are, or should be, provided free of charge. There should be one life jacket for every person on board, but they are, of course, individual items of clothing which must be fitted to the individual concerned. I understand that some hirers ask for a deposit for life jackets, and whilst this is understandable as they are quite valuable, it may mean that some large families do not take an adequate number. Certainly they should be held responsible for any life jackets lost or damaged as with other equipment, but if the special deposit could be done away with this might mean that the jackets would be worn by more people. It is, of course, difficult to make children keep life jackets on all the time, but how vitally important this is. We want to make it "the done thing" to wear a life jacket on the water - something

which every expert does. They are obligatory for some types of racing craft. The modern brightly coloured jackets are probably attractive to most children, but there may perhaps be a place for a reasonably priced jacket for youngsters with a gay design, and perhaps even suitable pictures or slogans painted on. How about a life jacket equivalent of the "Davy Crockett" or the "Lone Ranger" outfits? Holiday makers also receive very good advice from various sources such as "stay with the boat which turns over, rather than strike out for the distant shore", but some of the deaths seem almost inexplicable. Young fit men, known to be good swimmers are included in the fatalities.

Safety measures on the boats themselves are also important and many boat owners are engaged in thinking out ways of making their boats even safer. Low toe rails can be found on many boats already, but there are disadvantages in having a high rail running around the deck. A non-slip surface, however, is of value and it is encouraging to note that these are gradually becoming the rule on boats. The problem of providing something to grab hold of if one is unfortunate enough to fall into the water is a difficult one. In the past, a type of rubbing strake with loops as handholds has been tried, but any loop is liable to catch on projecting posts, nails, etc., and be torn away often with damage to the boat. Possibly some type of rubbing strake wide enough to provide a temporary handhold, or with indentations for fingers without actual loops might be helpful. Trailing ropes would also give something to clutch hold of, but they would be very untidy and probably have other disadvantages.

I think that a pamphlet prepared by the Council, giving advice as to how to cope with emergencies including the best modern methods of artificial respiration, might be welcomed by boat owners for distribution to customers. I could arrange to collaborate with others in the preparation of such a pamphlet if the Council feel it desirable.

Accidents on the roads are perhaps not such a peculiar problem of this area, but we have indeed our share. Crash helmets are becoming more common for motor cyclists, but one still sees numbers of people riding a motor cycle without one, sometimes without even a hat at all. This is silly foohardy behaviour.

In my opinion reputable safety belts should be fitted in all cars, for they have been shown to save injuries and deaths. They are, however, still expensive. Perhaps if more were bought, the price would come down.

A well-known surgeon has said that he has seen so many head injuries from accidents in cars that he now always wears a hat while driving. Almost any type of hat appears to give some protection, but specially designed felt hats with stiff brims are available which resemble closely ordinary headgear. It is misguided chivalry for a man to remove his hat while driving with a lady in the car!

From time to time there are difficult cases of elderly people living alone who are in need of care and attention beyond that which is available in their own homes. They very frequently refuse to consider going voluntarily into a County Home and the question arises as to whether compulsory action should be taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act. This requires an order from a Magistrate and the Petition of a General Practitioner and Medical Officer of Health. This is action which I, in common with most Medical Officers of Health, am very reluctant to take and I explore all other possible alternatives. Where Home Helps are available, they are employed, and the British Red Cross and other sources will frequently lend or give clothing and equipment. Unfortunately, some of these old people have been recluses for many years. They do not welcome any strangers and will sometimes not even accept a Home Help or a Nurse, or the conditions are sometimes so bad in the house that it is not fair to ask a Home Help to go in. There is one method of keeping such people in their own homes as long as possible - A meals of Wheels Service is of great benefit and is already provided by the Women's Voluntary Service in Norwich, and those areas of the county adjacent to the City. To provide such a service in rural districts is, of course, much more difficult but food, together with warmth and adequate clothing is one of the essentials of life for these old folk, and I am exploring various methods of providing such a service in isolated places where it is not already provided by kindly neighbours.

I have written a good deal in previous reports about the importance of immunisation and a good deal of my time is of course

devoted to carrying out immunisation against poliomyelitis, tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough, and vaccination against smallpox and tuberculosis. It is very satisfactory to report that for the second year in succession there were no notifications of poliomyelitis. Tetanus unfortunately has not been eliminated simply because not everyone has been immunised against it. It is a simple, harmless and virtually painless procedure and is highly recommended for all who work on the land and indeed for everyone else as well, as some of the cases which have occurred have been in town dwellers. Recent outbreaks of diphtheria in London and Derby have shown that this disease is not yet conquered. It is vitally important to have children immunised against it, and to have a boosting dose on entering school. Vaccination against smallpox is also very important and so much less of a nuisance to children than to adults that first vaccination should be carried out prior to school entry, except in the case of children suffering from eczema. Following a successful first vaccination a repeat vaccination some years later can be carried out if necessary, and will cause very little disturbance.

This is not the place to give a detailed account of my work as the School Medical Officer for the Area, but it may be of interest to mention one or two innovations, particularly in connection with handicapped children. In the past, I have drawn attention to the importance of detecting deafness at as early an age as possible in young babies in order to allow speech to be developed normally. Recently, we have started a Clinic for the treatment of nocturnal enuresis or bed wetting. This is quite normal in children up to the age of about 4, though many children are dry before this. Where the condition persists beyond this age a visit to the Clinic may be helpful and for suitable cases an "enuresis alarm" can be loaned, or the parents shown how to make one. This is a simple mechanism which rings a bell when the bed is "wet" and very soon the child ceases to wet the bed at all when it is used. In spite of a few alarmist articles I know of no evidence that this treatment produces any undesirable effect.

In several Annual Reports I have drawn attention to the bad state of the teeth of children in this District. Bad teeth have not been confined to Norfolk of course; in fact, since the war the state of the nation's dental health seems to have been

deteriorating, and I believe that this has been due to the excessive eating of sweet-meats of various sorts. I am glad to see that in certain areas, there now seems to be the beginning of a reversal of this trend, and some parents are becoming aware of the importance of teaching their children to clean their teeth after every meal or after eating anything sugary. I am hoping to arrange with the Head Teachers of schools for facilities for the children to clean their teeth after school meals. We were beginning to be known as a nation of people with false teeth. It would be an admirable thing if we were instead known as a nation of people who clean their teeth after every meal, and I am convinced that this would not be as difficult to carry out as is sometimes suggested. If the will is there, means can be found. Fluoridation of the water supply would, of course, greatly help to prevent dental caries, and one hopes that it will ultimately become general throughout the country.

I should like to express again my grateful thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued support, and the Clerk, Senior Public Health Inspector and Members of the Health Department for their efficient work carried out so conscientiously, as in previous years.

I have the honour to remain, Ladies and Gentleman,

Your obedient Servant,

G.R. Holtby.

Medical Officer of Health.

#### SECTION A.

#### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

AREA. - (in acres) 70,017. The administrative centre of the area is at Stalham, with a surrounding district which is entirely rural in character, with Agriculture and Dairy Farming as the main industry. The district includes a large area of the Broads. 13 miles of coastline and many historical villages which attract many thousands of visitors during the holiday season.

POPULATION. The Registrar-General has estimated the population for the mid-year 1960 as 17,950 giving a population density of .26 per acre.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES. According to the Rate Book, the number of Inhabited Houses in the district is 6,674 the Rateable Value being £170,903. The sum represented by a Penny Rate is £673. 16s. 8d.

#### SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres	70,017 17,950 6,674 170,903 16s 8d.
Smallburgh R.D.C.	England and Wales
Deaths - Number	11.5
Number	17.1
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births 4.04% Stillbirths -	
Number 6 Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths 29.41	19.8

# Summary of vital statistics. (Contd)

	Smallburgh R.D.C.	England and Wales
Total live and stillbirths Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year) Infant Mortality Rates -	204 4	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000	20.20	21.9
legitimate live births	21.05	
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4	NIL	
weeks per 1,000 total live births) Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths	20.20	15.6
under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000	20.20	
total live and stillbirths)  Maternal Mortality (including abortion -	49.01	32.9
Number of deaths Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	NIL 0.00	
DEATHS FROM SPECIAL DISEASES -		
Measles (all ages)	•••••	- - 38 1

# BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AND CASE RATES CERTAIN DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1960.

CERTAIN DISEASES IN THE	1EAR 1900.	_
	England	Smallburgh
	& Wales	R.D.C. (crude)
IRTHS -	Rates per 1,	000 population
Live	17.1	11.03
Still ·· ·· ··	19.8(a)	0.34 29.41(a)
EATHS -	44 5	10 17
All causes	11.5	10.47
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.07	0.05
Influenza	0.02	0.05
Acute Poliomyelitis (including		0.00
Polioencephalitis)	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	0.55	0.50
Coronary Disease	2.01	1.73
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	0.48	0.45
	Smallburg	h R.D.C.
	Rates per 1,	000 population
OTIFICATIONS (corrected) -		
Typhoid Fever	. 0.0	00
	0.0	00
	0.0	00
	0.8	34
	1.6	52
	0.0	00
•	0.	11
• -	0.0	00
	7.0	7
Pneumonia	0.3	33
Acute Poliomyelitis (including		
Polioencephalitis)	0.0	
Food Poisoning	0.2	22
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	0.0	05
Dysentery	0.	
	0.0	75

<sup>(</sup>a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

#### INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis - respiratory	1	-
Tuberculosis - other	-	-
Syphilitic disease	1	_
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	_
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	_
Other infective and parasitic diseases	11 7 10	_
Malignant neoplasms of stomach	8	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	0	_
Malignant neoplasm of breast	111	2
Malignant neoplasm of uterus	45	_
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms Leukaemia, aleukaemia	15	9
	2	1
	10	
0	26	19
The sand and the sand	20	5 3
011	9	20
041	5	6
Influenza	_	1
Pneumonia	4	5
Bronchitis	4	
Other disease of respiratory system	_	
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	_	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	_
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	_
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	_	_
Congenital malformation		1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	4
Motor vehicle accidents	ź	
All other accidents	1	1
Suicide	1	_
Homicide and operations of war	-	-
All causes	106	82

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT FOR 1960 AND PREVIOUS YEARS. COMPARATIVE TABLE WITH ENGLAND AND WALES FOR PAST 10 YEARS.

ear	Live Birt per 1,000 p	irth Rate O population	Deat per 1,000	Death Rate per 1,000 population	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Bi	rtality Rate Live Births
	England & Wales	Smallburgh R.D.C. (crude)	England & Wales	Smallburgh R.D.C. (crude)	England & Wales	Smallburgh R.D.C.
	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	13.92 12.92 11.98 12.96 11.54 11.54	21111111 244471111111111111111111111111111111111	12.8 9.87 9.89 9.62 9.76 10.33	22222222222222222222222222222222222222	32.1 25.3* 1.39.88 1.46.3 20.46.5 20.20

\* Exactly half of this figure was due to Prematurity.

#### SECTION B.

# GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES.

#### NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

Smallburgh Rural District is included with North Walsham Urban District and Blofield and Flegg Rural District to form No. 1 Area of the Norfolk County Council under the National Health Service Act for the purpose of carrying out duties for which the County Health Authority has accepted responsibility. The duties include Care of Mothers and Young Children, Midwifery Service, Health Visiting Service, Home Nursing Service, Ambulance Service, Vaccination and Immunisation, Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care, Domestic Health Service and Mental Health Service. Some of these services, along with the School Service in the area, are the responsibility of the Area Medical Officer, who also acts as Medical Officer of Health of the three County Districts comprising Area No. 1 referred to above.

There are three Health Visitors and seven District Nurses with Centres established at the following places:-

#### INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

Catfield	Village Hall	3rd Thursday each month.
Felmingham	Village Hall	Last Tuesday " "
Hickling	Village Hall	1st Wednesday " "
Horning	Village Hall	3rd Monday " "
Hoveton	Village Hall	3rd Wednesday alternate
		months
Stalham	Church Room	3rd Wednesday each month
Worstead	Sir Harold Harms-	1st Friday " "
	worth Memor. Hall	

#### VOLUNTARY WEIGHING CENTRES.

Bacton	The Hall	2nd Friday each month
East Ruston	The Hall	2nd Thursday " "
Happisburgh	Church Room	2nd Tuesday " "
unostow 1	R.A.F. Coltishall	1st Monday " "

A doctor attends all Clinics where there is an attendance of 25 or over.

#### OTHER TREATMENT CENTRES.

Treatment Centres are established as follows:-

Dental Clinics Speech Clinics Hoveton S.M. School 3 sessions weekly

Stalham S.M. School 2 session weekly 1 session weekly

#### GENERAL WELFARE

A Welfare Officer with established offices at Stalham and North Walsham has maintained contact with the general public throughout the year.

Local village Old People's Welfare Committees have organised Old People's Clubs at Potter Heigham, Hickling, Bacton, Catfield, Worstead, Swanton Abbot, Stalham, Felmingham, Sea Palling, Ludham, Horning, Hoveton, Smallburgh and Dilham. The Welfare Officer is anxious to see such Clubs established in all the villages in the area and he is only too willing to give assistance to this end.

Contact has been regularly maintained during the year with the Smallburgh Rural District Council Officers and especially with the Clerk, Public Health Inspector and Rent Collector. By working together it has often been possible to effect very satisfactory results, especially with threatened eviction cases. It has not been necessary to provide residential accommodation under Part III of the National Assistance Act for evicted families during the year.

The Home Help Service is administered from the Area Local Health Office, Aspland Road, Norwich. Applications for assistance are addressed to the Welfare Officer at his North Walsham Office. In addition to cases dealt with under this service, the Welfare Officer was able to arrange for other cases to be assisted by obtaining Domestic Assistance Allowance from the National Assistance Board.

The Welfare Officer is also the Mental Welfare Officer under

the Mental Health Act and in this capacity he has made numerous domiciliary visits to mental defectives living in the community and to patients discharged from, or on leave from, mental hospitals

#### AMBULANCE SERVICE.

This Service is operated by the St. John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross Society, as agents of the County Council.

#### VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

This service is also the responsibility of the County Health Authority and is carried out by general practitioners and by Assistant County Medical Officers.

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Facilities for Laboratory investigations are to be had at the Public Health Laboratory, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich, who are the suppliers of lymph for vaccination.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (1948) ACT, SECTION 47. (Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention).

No action was necessary during the year.

#### SECTION C.

#### SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

(Contributed by the Senior Public Health Inspector).

#### WATER SUPPLY.

Further progress was made during 1960 towards the completion of the water scheme for that part of the district for which the Rural District Council are the Statutory Water Undertakers. The Area 'A' Stage II mains extension tappings contract was completed during the year with 192 properties connected to the mains making a total of 1,237 connections in the past three years. Small mains extensions were completed at Walcot and Ludham and the contracts signed for extensions at Barton Turf and Irstead and for 33 miles of main in other parts of the district. An extension to Riverside Road and the Rhond, Hoveton, on a guarantee basis was agreed with the City of Norwich. These extensions will still leave a number of isolated properties and areas without piped supplies but it is estimated that about 90% of the properties in the district will be able to take a supply of mains water when the new extensions are completed.

The East Ruston and Catfield sources of supply, about which full details were given in the 1957 report, gave very adequate and satisfactory supplies throughout the year. The water from the Catfield source has been improved by the iron removal plant installed in 1959 and little discolouration is now noticeable in this area of supply.

As in previous years bulk supplies were taken from the Norwich City mains for the parishes of Dilham, Swanton Abbott and Worstead and a supply at Potter Heigham bridge from the Smallburgh mains was given to the Blofield and Flegg Rural District Council.

The consumption of water increases year by year with more connections and the increased familiarity of the consumers with piped supplies as is shown by the figures given over leaf:-

#### Consumption in Millions of Gallons.

1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
33.2	33.0	48.00	60.3	71.3

The two main sources of supply were sampled for bacteriologic examination at least once each week throughout the year with check samples for chemical examination taken quarterly. No trouble was found with the water supplies except some slight contamination at the Knapton tower which had to be emptied and re-chlorinated befor the trouble could be cured. The bacteriological contamination was, however, very small and there were no B. Coli present in the samples. The number of samples taken during 1960 increased to 297 and the results obtained can be summarised as follows:-

	Chemical Examination			Bacterio Examin	_
Result	Private Supply	Public Supply		Private Supply	Public Supply
Satisfactory	2	12		26	208
Unsatisfactory	1	-		26	22

Information about the properties supplied with mains water is given below, but in assessing this information it should be noted that none of the parishes is yet completely covered by mains. In consequence many properties off route cannot take a supply also many owners of larger properties and some seaside dwellings have their own deep bore supplies. The estimated number of hereditaments in each parish also includes many properties which do not require a supply of water.

The information relating to the Norwich City statutory area of supply was kindly supplied by the City Waterworks Engineer and Manager.

Parishes served	Estimated number of hereditaments	Estimated resident population.	Number of properties with supply. (not metered)	Number of proper- ties served with standpipes.	Number of metered supplies.	Number of schools supplied.
-		NOR	WICH CITY	STATUTOR	Y AREA	
ASHMANHAUGH HORNING HOVETON WEATISHEAD SCOTTOW BLOLEY BMALLBURGH TUNSTEAD	54 349 648 192 230 71 143 162	150 800 1460 460 1350 220 410 500	30 237 460 100 162 39 90 116	1* - - 9 -	4 30 32 6 9 4 12	1 1 2 1 - 1 1 1
		-	BULK SUI	PPLY AREA	S	
DILHAM WANTON ABBOT ÆSTWICK VORSTEAD	114 135 50 281	330 340 150 740	53 80 1 140	_ _ 1 _	5 13 3 17	1 - - 1
	CATFIELD SUPPLY AREA					
ATFIELD ICKLING UDHAM OTTER HEIGHAM TALHAM UTTON	238 305 355 296 515 162	680 800 990 690 1230 470	141 206 174 117 405 82	- 1 6 80 15*	35 25 21 22 30 16	1 1 1 1 2

Includes Public Drinking Fountains. Building and temporary supplies are excluded from the above figures.

Parishes served	Estimated number of hereditaments	Estimated resident population.	Number of properties with supply. (not metered)	Number of properties served with standpipes.	Number of metered supplies.	Number of schools supplied.
		E <i>I</i>	AST RUSTO	N SUPPLY	\REA	
BACTON BRUMSTEAD EAST RUSTON HAPPISBURGH HORSEY INGHAM KNAPTON LESSINGHAM PASTON SEA PALLING SWAFIELD TRUNCH WITTON	516 30 190 463 43 134 105 239 106 252 100 141 140	860 75 490 920 180 390 290 290 300 480 330 370 320	247 2 113 345 36 110 68 41 68 169 60 79 68	1 5 2 1 1 1 - - 1* 1	33 - 24 26 10 21 6 13 6 27 3 8 8	3 - 1 1 - 1 1 - -
			PARIS	H SCHEME		
HONING	123	330	39	-	3	1

<sup>\*</sup> Includes Public Drinking Fountains. Building and temporary supplies are excluded from the above figures.

#### SEWERAGE

There is unfortunately little to report by way of progress on the Council's programme of sewerage schemes accepted by the Council on the report of the Development Committee in 1959. The scheme for Hoveton does, however, seem a little nearer in that a visit was made to the district by an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and that the Consulting Engineers are now working on the Bills of Quantities for the work involved in this combined scheme which includes Hoveton with certain parishes in the Rural District of St. Faiths and Aylsham.

The part village scheme completed in November 1959 for the parish of Swanton Abbott can be said to be a success as practically all properties on the route of the new sewers, including the Council houses, have been connected to the system with the majority of the properties improved by way of grants under the Housing Act or with conversion contributions under the Public Health Act. In addition to Swanton Abbott, Stalham and a small part of Sutton and a number of housing estates served by 21 small plants are the only other parts of the district with main drainage except for a few properties on the Trunch boundary which are connected to the sewers of the Erpingham Rural District Council.

#### COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

The Development Committee's proposals accepted by the Council for the extension and improvement of the refuse, nightsoil and cesspool emptying scheme came into operation on 1st April, 1960 and the district can now be said to have as complete a system for these three services as any Rural District in East Anglia. A once weekly collection of refuse is made from all accessible properties in the district with twice weekly collections of refuse in summer from the majority of boatyards, staithes and other collection points on the Broads and Rivers. Properties without water closets in areas without sewers have a once weekly collection of nightsoil with properties in the six Broads parishes receiving a twice weekly collection. Properties not receiving a nightsoil collection and not on the route of a sewer are given two free emptyings by cesspool emptier with additional loads above this figure removed, when necessary, at a cost of 35/- per load.

To provide this service it was necessary to increase the cleansing staff and vehicle strength beyond that previously used but even after doing this some difficulty was experienced in the summer months with the heavy refuse collections and throughout the year by calls on the cesspool emptying service. To overcome this latter difficulty authority has been given for the purchase of an additional cesspool emptying vehicle during the 1961/62 financial year.

During 1960 the number of loads collected by the cesspool emptying vehicles increased by 25% over the previous year to 3,591 with a similar increase in the number of gallons removed to a little over  $3\frac{1}{2}$  million. By way of comparison the figures for 1953 are of interest when the last major reorganization of the cleansing service was made. In that year 1,293 loads were collected amounting in total to about  $\frac{3}{4}$  million gallons. The cesspool emptiers then being of 700 gallons capacity as compared with 1000 gallons at the present time.

The following information about last years cesspool emptyings may be of interest:-

may be of interest.										
11/1 11/2	No. of Cesspools Emptied	No. of Loads Removed	No. of Loads Chargeable							
Private	1414 (1002)	1739 (1505)	482 (840)							
Council	722 (524)	1852 (1304)	1293 (1165)							
Total	2136 (1526)	3591 (2809)	1775 (2005)							

The labour strength on the cleansing side is now 24 men with two holiday relief loader/drivers for the summer period. During 1960 the vehicles used on the cleansing service travelled 102,833 miles and used 10,420 gallons of petrol and diesel oil. The vehicles in use at 31st December were as follows:-

- 4, 1,000 gallon diesel cesspool emptiers with nightsoil attachment
- 3, 12 cubic yard diesel refuse collection vehicles.
- 4, 10 cubic yard petrol refuse collection vehicles (one spare).
- 1, 10 cubic yard refuse trailer (at Potter Heigham Bridge).
- 1, Fordson Major diesel tractor with bucket and blade.

#### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

#### (a) Bacton.

Closed for the three winter months of the year the takings at these conveniences for the Spring, Summer and Autumn period amounted to £36. 8s. 7d.

#### (b) Happisburgh.

A tender was accepted in December for the construction of new public conveniences and the provision of a car park at Beach Road on land generously made available for a very small sum by a local landowner. Unfortunately the builder obtaining this contract also submitted the lowest tender for the Stalham conveniences and work on the site will not be completed until after the 1961 holiday season.

#### (c) Hoveton.

The years takings of £215. 15s. 8d. were again a record for these conveniences and again proved the very useful purpose the conveniences serve in this parish. Unfortunately it is necessary to report that much minor damage was caused to the buildings and fittings during the holiday season.

#### (d) Potter Heigham.

In conjunction with the Blofield and Flegg Rural District Council agreement has been reached for the provision of public conveniences near the bridge, Potter Heigham, to serve the needs of visitors and others to both Rural Districts. Attempts were being made at the end of the year to secure a satisfactory site for the conveniences which will be on the Smallburgh side of the river.

## e) Sea Palling.

The conveniences adjoining the Lifeboat Public House, on ease to the Council before the 1953 flood, are to be purchased by he Council for £400. when the new convenience at the rear of the

premises are completed for the users of the licensed premises.

#### (f) Stalham.

A tender was accepted late in the year for the erection of a block of public conveniences at the rear of High Street, Stalham.

#### (g) Walcot.

Although closed for the three winter months of the year these conveniences which were opened in April 1960 at Walcot Gap proved their worth in that the takings for the period up to 30th November amounted to £57. 16s. 1d. Their availability proved of great value to the numerous holidaymakers visiting this part of the district.

#### (h) Remainder of District.

Once again it is necessary to thank the Brewery Companies and their licensees for the facilities given at the various licensed premises particularly on the Broads and coast where to a certain extent the needs of the public were again satisfied by the use of the conveniences at these premises.

#### COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES.

The number of complaints received during 1960 was 110 of which 92 were found to be justified and the necessary action was taken by way of visits, letters, etc. to obtain the abatement of the unsatisfactory conditions found. Five complaints were not the concern of the Rural District Council and were therefore passed on to the bodies or authorities concerned.

#### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

During 1960 the Council's full-time rat catcher again had a busy year investigating complaints and carrying out routine inspections and treatments of dwelling-houses, shops, factories, agricultural holdings, refuse tips and sewage disposal plants for the clearance of infestations and rats and mice.

The following visits and treatments were made during the year:-

Number of properties inspected	2,583
A hours are amounting found to be infeated	910
Number of properties found to be infested	20,847
Number of pre-baits laid	
Number of poison baits laid	11,663
Total number of visits by the operator	6,110

Payments made to the Local Authority for the services of the operative at business properties amounted to £17. 5s. Od.

## THE CONTROL OF CAMPING AND OF MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

On the 29th July, 1960 the Royal Assent was given to the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act which gave to planning authorities and district councils new powers for strengthening planning controls and a new system of licensing aimed at securing that all caravan sites, whether residential or holiday sites, are situated in suitable places and that they are properly equipped and run. The new Act does not change the position in respect of tents and other moveable dwellings which are, therefore, still covered by the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Coming into operation on the 29th August the closely timed procedural requirements of the new Act combined with the opportunity taken to adopt a new caravan policy, particularly for the coastal area of the district, placed an additional burden on the staff of the department and the appropriate officers of the County Council. Two complete surveys of the district were carried out by the department in August when it was found that there were at the end of that month in the district 346 holiday static caravans, 242 holiday touring caravans, 41 residential caravans and 278 tents. Immediately upon the passing of the Act all site owners were sent information leaflets and application forms, numerous meetings and consultations were held, standards were adopted for sites, the licensing functions of the Health Committee were transferred to the Housing Committee and 105 copy applications for licences sent to the County Planning Department for observation. This latter step, although not necessary in all instances under the new Act, was suggested by the County Council in order that they might give

their views on any existing sites which did not require a renewal of planning permission. Unfortunately the staff of the Planning Department were not able to cope with the flood of applications very quickly and by the end of the year only onelicence had been issued.

The policy for the district, prepared by the County Planning Department and accepted by the Rural District Council, provides for the complete clearance of caravans from certain stretches of the coastline and the concentration of caravanning in others and involves the service of a considerable number of notices and the possible payment of compensation. There is no doubt that many of the owners of sites will appeal against the notices served in pursuance of this policy.

The increase of caravanning over the past few years will no doubt continue for a considerable time to come and this will create many difficulties by the illegal use of land if a plentiful supply of sites with adequate places for caravans is not provided either privately or by the Council under the Act.

Frankly I consider that the new Act and Standards were brought into operation too quickly, did not give any of the authorities time to truly consider the implications and difficulties and I think it will be, even now, at least two or three years before the new system of caravanning is placed on a proper footing.

#### STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT.

There were 154 premises storing 94,490 gallons of petrol in use in the district during 1960, for which £85. 10s. Od. was received by way of fees. 187 visits were made to these premises during the year to ensure that the installations were being maintained up to the standards required by the memorandum issued by the Home Office a year or two ago.

#### SECTION D.

#### HOUSING.

#### HOUSING ACTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Summarised below are the details of the work of the department in this field during 1960.

No.	of dwellings inspected under the Housing and Public	
1.0.	Health Acts	135
Mo	of inspections made for the purpose	409
	of dwellings found unfit for human habitation	9
	of defective dwellings made fit by informal action	115
	of defective dwellings made fit by formal action .	0
	of dwellings represented to the Council as unfit .	9
No.	of dwellings in respect of which demolition orders	
	were made	5
No.	of dwellings demolished	0
	of dwellings in respect of which closing orders were	
	made	2
No.	of dwellings in respect of which undertakings were	_
110.	accepted	2
Ma	_	
	of dwellings closed	4
	of families re-housed from unfit dwellings	(
	of persons re-housed from unfit dwellings	24
	of certificates of disrepair issued	0
No.	of cases of overcrowding abated	0

#### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Some small increase can be reported over 1959 in the number of properties approved for aid under the improvement grant provisions of the Housing Act. The details are as follows.

Type of Grant	No of Applica- tions.	No. Approved	Value of Grants Approved	No. Completed	Value of Grants Paid
Discretionary Standard	48 38	47 37	£16,525 £4,371	28 24	£8,677 £2,380
Total	86	84	£20,896	52	£11,057

#### COUNCIL HOUSES.

During 1960 the Council decided to build a further twelve bungalows of the small type suitable for occupation by aged persons or newly married couples. At the 31st December work was in progress on four bungalows in each of the parishes of Ludham, Trunch and Witton. The Council at present owns 1,361 dwellings as follows:-

1919 Assisted Scheme	48
1924 Acts	412
1931 (Rural Authorities) Act	28
Slum Clearance	58
1936 Act (Overcrowding)	34
1938 Act (Overcrowding and Slum Clearance)	3
(Accommodation of members of	
aggregate population)	19
Not subsidised	83
1946 Act (a) Permanent	620
1946 Act (a) Permanent	50
	1,361

#### SECTION E.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(Contributed by the Senior Public Health Inspector).

#### SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The report on the slaughtering facilities in the district as required by the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, was, after numerous inspections, visits and correspondence submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in July, 1960. This report suggested that the Minister should fix the 1st July, 1961, as the day upon which the constructional regulations under the Act should be applied to the slaughterhouses in the district. The necessary approval of the Minister was obtained and at the end of the year one of the slaughterhouses had been brought completely up to the standard required by the regulations whilst plans had been received for alterations to another premises. The other four slaughterhouses in the district are not being retained in use for slaughtering purposes by the proprietors.

#### MEAT INSPECTION.

During 1960 21,243 animals were slaughtered and the resulting carcases and offals inspected, being a new record for the district, with a rise of approximately 2,500 over the figures for 1959. 100 per cent inspection was again achieved involving 848 visits to the slaughterhouses but this was only possible by a considerable amount of overtime, both on weekdays and on Saturdays and Sundays. The quality of meat passing through the slaughterhouses was again found to be of very high standard and only 5 tons. 4 cwts. 62 lbs. was found unfit for human consumption.

Again there was no difficulty with the disposal of unsound meat and offals, as a firm from another district made regular visits to the largest slaughterhouse and collected the condemned material for processing and manufacturing into animal foods and fertilizers. A small amount of unfit meat and offals from the smaller slaughterhouses not visited by this contractor was collected and buried on the Council's refuse tips. 11 carcases were found to be affected by Cysticercosis during the year and by

arrangement with a refrigeration firm in Lowestoft the sound portions of the carcases and offals were transported there and held ir store for the requisite sterilizing period. Notification was given to the Health Department of the Lowestoft Borough Council whenever a carcase was to be taken to the cold store and arrangements were made for a visit during storage.

At the end of the year there were nine slaughtermen licensed by the Rural District Council for the killing of various classes of animals.

Details are given in the following table on page 31 of the inspection of carcases and offal at the various slaughterhouses in the district.

Pigs Horses	16733 –	16733 –		1	370 -		2.21%		l l	42 –	0.25%		1	,	
Sheep and Pi	1190 167	1190 167		1	4		0.34% 2.3		-	1	1		1	1	
Calves	44	44		1	1		ı		1	1	ı		ı	1	
Cows	131	131		1	25		19.08%		ı	8	1.53%		ι	ı	
Cattle (excluding Cows)	3145	3145		ı	468		14.88%		ı	21	0.67%		=	11	
	Number killed (if known)	Number Inspected	ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI.	Whole carcases condemned	Carcases of which some part or or organ was condemned	Percentage of number inspected affected with	diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:	Whole carcases condemned	Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Percentage of number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis	CYSTICERCOSIS	Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Generalised and totally

#### THE MEAT (STAINING AND STERILIZATION) REGULATIONS, 1960.

On the 1st November, 1960 these new regulations came into force requiring, subject to certain exceptions, all meat found to be unfit for human consumption to be sterilized at slaughterhouses. If, however, no such facilities exist the regulations allow the meat to be moved to a place for sterilization or destruction provided the meat is delivered intact to the agreed destination. Unfit meat from butchers' premises must be dealt with in the same way as from slaughterhouses.

Zoos, menageries, mink farms and processors may obtain untreated meat provided it is transported in locked containers or vehicles properly marked and medical or veterinary schools and similar institutions and manufacturing chemists may also obtain meat from slaughterhouses or knacker's yards which is not stained or sterilized. Unfit meat must, however, be stained or sterilized before it can be sold by the retailers of pets food.

#### OTHER FOODS.

The amount of food, other than meat and offal at slaughter-houses, found unfit for human consumption in the district during 1960 was very small consisting of 31 tins of various foodstuffs and 1 cwt. of frozen cod.

#### FOOD PREMISES.

During 1960 295 visits were made to the 224 food premises in use in the Rural District. Conditions were found to be generally good with many improvements being carried out. The food premises in the district can be classified as follows:-

Bakeries	2	Cafe and Restaurants	23
Butchers' Shops	14	Grocers and General Stores	117
Fish Shops	7	Licensed Premises	61

#### MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS.

By the Milk Special Designations Regulations 1960 the issue of dealer's licences was transferred from the District Council

to the County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority. This will relieve retailers of the responsibility of obtaining licences from the various district councils within whose area they sell milk.

The registration of distributors of milk still rests with the District Council and in 1960 11 new distributors were registered bringing the total for the district up to 45.

#### ICE CREAM.

There are now in the Rural District 75 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, all of which is prepacked and received from reputable manufacturers. The number of premises shows an increase of six over the figures for 1959. Only one of the premises is registered for the manufacture of this type of food. In all 103 inspections were made of the premises where storage takes place.

#### PRESERVED FOODS.

No new premises were registered for the preparation and manufacture of preserved food during 1960 but the 16 premises already on the register were inspected on 25 occasions.

#### SECTION F.

#### PREVENTION OF AND CONTROL OF

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND OTHER DISEASES.

#### NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected).

			No.		No.
Scarlet Fever	• •	• •	15	Dysentery	2
Whooping Cough	• •	• •	29	Erysipelas	2
Measles	• •	• •	127	Food Poisoning	4
Acute Pneumonia		• •	6	Acute Poliomyelitis	Nil
Jaundice	• •	• •	1	Puerperal Pyrexia	1

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following is the number of primary immunisations and booster injections given during the last five years in respect of Area 1.

Year	Prima	ary Ir	jection	s	Booster	Totals	
	Under 1	%	Age 1-4	Age 5–14	Under 5	Age 5-14	100012
1960 1959 1958 1957 1956	463 358 305 312 390	67 50 44 45 59	175 64 61 118 132	238 15 9 86 193	37 20 53 63 44	1,046 53 55 543 667	1,959 510 483 1,122 1,426

#### VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

Vaccination of children (under 5 years of age) during the last five years in Area No. 1.

No. of live births	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
registered No. of vaccinations	662	685	694	713	692
recorded (0-4 years) Percentage vaccinated	421 64%	445 65%	449 65%	3 <b>7</b> 5 53%	445 64%

#### VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

The following is the number of primary immunisations and booster injections given in Area No. 1 since the introduction of the scheme in 1956.

	PRIMARY			BOC		
Year	Children under 15 yrs.	Adults	Total	Children under 15 yrs.	Adults	Total
1960 1959 1958 1957 1956	786 1,759 6,665 1,166 167	1,201 2,311 225 -	1,987 4,070 6,890 1,166 167	1,400 5,793 1,707 -	2,102 1,231 - - -	3,502 7,024 1,707 -
Totals	10,543	3,737	14,280	8,900	3,333	12,233

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

The following are the Mortality Rates:-

Pulmonary Tuberculosis Mortality Rate 0.05 per 1,000 pop.

Non-pulmonary

" 0.00

NUMBER OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON REGISTER
AT 31st DECEMBER, 1960, AND DECEMBER, 1959.

	Pulmo	onary	Non- Fulmor		Total		
	Males	Fem.	Males	Fem.	Males	Fem.	
31st December, 1959	32	32	18	18	50	50	
31st December, 1960	36	29	18	17	54	46	

#### COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR THE NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

#### PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

#### NOTIFICATIONS.

Ages		1960		1959		1958	
		Males	Fem.	Males	Fem.	Males	Fem.
0- 1	year	-	_	_	-	_	_
	years		-	-	-	-	_
5-10	11	_	_	_	_	1	_
10-15	**	-	_	_	_	_	- 12.1
15-20	11	-	- "	_	_	- 0	1
20-25	H	_	_	1	_	_	- 499.0
25-35		2	_	_	_	2	_
35-45	11	-	1	_	1	-	_
45-65	11	1	-	_	-	1	_
Over 65 years		1	-	-	-	-	-
	Totals	4	1	1	1	4	1

#### NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

#### NOTIFICATIONS.

A 00 0	1960		1959		1958	
Ages	Males	Fem.	Males	Fem.	Males	Fem.
0- 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
1- 5 years	_	-	-	_	_	
5–10 "	-	-	_	-		
10–15 "	_		_	_	_	_
15-20 - "	_	-			_	_
20-25 "			_	_	_	1
25-35 "	-	- 1		_	_	_
35-45 "	_	- /	_	_	_	_
45-65 "	-	_	-	-	-	1
Over 65 years	_	_	-	-	1	
Totals	_	-	-	-	-	2

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

#### MEASLES

Measles once more headed the list of notified infectious diseases with 127 cases. Although fewer than last year, this is still many more than all the other notified infectious diseases put together, and one hopes that the vaccine on which so much work has been devoted in the United States will soon become available in this country.

#### WHOOPING COUGH

29 cases were notified compared with one last year. This is rather disappointing, but I do not think that it is evidence against the value of immunisation against whooping cough, which of not completely prevented by a full course of immunisation is usually much milder than in unimmunised children.

#### SCARLET FEVER

15 cases were notified compared with 14 last year and my remarks then about the possible dangers of infection with streptococci still hold, namely that one particular strain is frequently the cause of acute nephritis — inflammation of the kidneys, and that rheumatic fever, which has shown a recent recrudescence is a complication of some other cases.

#### FOOD POISONING

4 cases were notified compared with none last year. One sometimes feels that food poisoning is with us permanently, yet by proper hygiene, it can be eliminated. I wonder how long it will take to achieve this apparently obvious requirement in all who are in any way connected with the preparation of food.

# FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948.

#### PART I OF THE ACT.

1. - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

	Number	Number of			
Premises	on Register	Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted	
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	_	-	- V	
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	74	39	-	Part of the last o	
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	15	_			
TOTAL	93	39	-		

#### 2. - Cases in which DEFECTS were found -

'If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Cases. /	Number	of cases	in which	defects	Number of
	were found			cases in	
	Found	Remedied	Refer	which	
Particulars	1 ouna		To H.M.	By H.M. Inspec-	prose- cutions
			Inspec-	tor	were
			001	001	instituted
Want of cleanliness					
(S.1)	-	-	_	-	_
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	_	_	_	_
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	_	_	_	_	_
Inadequate (5.5)					
ventilation (S.4)	-	_	_	-	_
Ineffective drainage					
of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	_	-
Sanitary					
Conveniences (S.7) - (a) Insufficient		_	_	_	_
(b) Unsuitable or	_				
defective	_	1	_	_	_
(c) Not separate					
for sexes	_	-	_	_	_
Other offences					
against the Act					
(not including Offences relating					
to Outwork)	_	_	_	_	-
		1			
TOTAL		1	_		

During 1959 there was only one recorded Outworker in the district engaged in the manufacture of Xmas Crackers. The conditions of the Outworker's premises were satisfactory.

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